

Tennis team takes Big West Crown; folds in regionals

BY MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight season, the UNLV Men's Tennis team captured the Big West Crown.

Finishing the season ranked 42nd, the Rebels were upset by No. 40 San Diego at the NCAA Regional on the UCLA campus in Los Angeles, Calif.

They dropped the match 4-1. The Rebels had beaten San Diego earlier in the season, 5-1, in what Coach Larry Easley had called one of the best matches this season.

Roger Pettersson, ranked 17th nationally most of the season fell to No. 20 by the end, but was still named Big West Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive season.

Pettersson also advanced to the NCAA Championships and pairs with his doubles partner, Luke Smith, to make up the first men's doubles team to reach nationals.

Easley was also honored by being named Coach of the Year for the second straight season and the third time in five years at UNLV.



Tim Blenkiron prepares to serve the ball in a match last year.

Search for the new athletic director ends

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The search for the new UNLV Athletic Director finally ended this summer when UNLV president Carol Harter announced that Charles Cavagnaro would be taking the position.

Cavagnaro assumed office on August 1, and was handed a \$10.8 million, 97 employee department with 14 varsity sports on the campus.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Cavagnaro was the athletic director for his alma mater, the University of Memphis, for 13 years before heading west to UNLV.

"Athletics should play a critical part of what a university is, but I stress, only a part," Cavagnaro said in a press conference announcing his hiring. "I can assure you that we will be making our mark in the athletic field, but we'll also be making our marks in the classroom."

Cavagnaro comes to UNLV at a time where the athletic department is beginning the biggest transition in its history as it moves into the Western Athletic Conference.

"The fact that the university is entering the WAC history will tell you that that was a monster achievement," Cavagnaro said.

As the University of Memphis Athletic Director, Cav-

agnaro was the first representative from Memphis to have a seat on the NCAA Council. He is also the chairman of the NCAA Communications Committee, the NCAA Post Season Football Committee and the NCAA Competitive Safeguard Committee which is responsible for NCAA drug testing policies. Cavagnaro is also a member of the College Football Association's Athletic Review Committee.

While at Memphis, graduation rates among athletes rose, and he also set up a fifth-year scholarship program for non-revenue sports. He helped to lobby city and county officials for the building of the Pyramid, which is now home for Memphis Basketball. Also among Cavagnaro's accomplishments was winning the bid to bring the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament to Memphis for the first two rounds.

Prior to becoming Athletic Director, Cavagnaro worked as assistant managing editor of *The Commercial Appeal*, a Scripps-Howard newspaper. Cavagnaro also worked as night metropolitan editor and executive sports editor.

With strong contacts within the NCAA, Cavagnaro should be able to help UNLV stay out the constant stream of trouble that has surrounded the UNLV athletics for the past few years.

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